



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Wednesday, November 26, 2003

**Governor Ehrlich Announces Over \$29 Million in Homeland Security  
Funding for the National Capital Region**

ANNAPOLIS -- Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. today announced that the National Capital Region, which includes Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, will receive \$29 million in Fiscal Year 2004 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Urban Area Security Initiative, in addition to the \$15.9 million received by Baltimore City.

"The Bush Administration demonstrated its strong commitment to protect the citizens of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and the entire National Capital Region," said Governor Ehrlich. "This additional homeland security funding will equip our fire fighters, police, medical and emergency management workers who are on the front line of the war against terrorism."

The Urban Area Security Initiative is a program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that provides grants to urban areas within the United States to enhance their overall security and preparedness level to prevent, respond and recover from acts of terrorism. These grants are awarded to cities and contiguous counties throughout the country based on specific security needs, critical buildings and infrastructure and population density. Funding is based on an urban assessment and strategic plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The National Capital Region Office in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security coordinates Federal programs and relationships with State, local, and regional authorities in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

"Because of the unique characteristics of the National Capital Region, it is even more important that we work together to coordinate information and maximize the resources we provide to secure the homeland," said Governor Ehrlich. "Obtaining this additional funding for homeland security in the two major metropolitan regions in Maryland, Baltimore and the National Capital Region, demonstrates our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety of Maryland citizens."